



HALE AHI NEWS

March 2005



**HFD QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**
January - March 2005

ALOHA FROM IRAQ HFD PERSONNEL SERVING THEIR COUNTRY

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Sunday, May 8, 2005**
Mother's Day
- **Monday, May 30, 2005**
Memorial Day
- **Friday, June 10, 2005**
Kamehameha Day
(Observed)
- **Friday, June 17, 2005**
HFD Retirees Association
Quarterly Meeting
Training Center
9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, June 19, 2005**
Father's Day

Fire Captain David Kabanu Jr. (TW9) is stationed in Iraq and recently sent an email to Captain Kenison Tejada. A portion of Captain Kabanu's email is printed below:

I just finished up another day of training and force protection activities around our base and I figured it was about time to drop a line to HFD. So here's a quick synopsis of what's been going on up here.



Aliko Naluai and Duke Kahanu

First of all, send my thanks again to FIRE 1 for the visitation and the care packages that he brought to the fire fighters during our stay in Louisiana back in January. He was with several other employers on an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Bosslift program, and I got to see him in a briefing of my area, but he may not have seen the three other HFD personnel due to training.

Second, attached is some pictures of us, although they are several months old. One picture is of Mark Inouye (E24), Aldann Rico (E39), and me taken back in November 2004 after returning from a flight to Ft. Hood, Texas for a training event. At the time, we were staying in Ft. Bliss, Texas. The other picture is of Aliko Naluai (E15) and me while we were in Kuwait, just prior to heading north to Iraq in mid-January.

Aliko and I are in Iraq just north of Baghdad.

The base we are at is large with pretty good infrastructure. There are hardstand buildings for offices, a PX, swimming pools, and gyms for extracurricular activities. Some personnel are still in tents, about 10 per tent, while most are in container trailers, 2-3 per trailer. It is sort of like a large trailer park. The threat that we live with is from daily mortar and rocket attacks. Insurgents, miles away, just shoot off towards our direction.

Life isn't really miserable, and of course there could be improvements. However, there are many other troops who reside in much worse conditions than the soldiers here. Overall, we have a high morale rate, enjoy doing the missions that we are tasked with, and just keep ourselves busy so time will fly by. So far, with all the different things going on, time is really flying by fast. Starting next month, everyone is authorized a two-week leave in which we can fly home or to any destination we want. I am looking at coming home around July or August. At that time, the temperatures here in the desert average 130 degrees in the day, and 100 degrees at night. That is really something we are looking forward to. Most of us have never experienced that kind of heat! Hoping that the fire training will keep me ready. There are also about 5-6 fire trucks stationed up here staffed with contract fire fighters. They make over \$100,000 a year. Pretty sick. But that is what all
(Continued on Page 3)



Mark Inouye, Aldann Rico, & Duke Kahanu



**PRIDE, SERVICE,
DEDICATION**

**Honolulu Fire Department
Attilio K. Leonardi
Fire Chief**

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Hale Ahi News

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Honolulu Fire Department is to respond to fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues on land and sea to save lives, property, and the environment. We accomplish this mission by:

- Promoting safety and maintaining a well equipped, highly trained, and motivated force of professional fire fighters and rescue personnel.
- Promoting fire prevention and other public safety education programs.

Vision Statement

The Honolulu Fire Department will continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF ...

As you drive past Kakaako, you can actually begin to see the building for our new Headquarters taking shape. Hopefully, no more delays! The materials are in and it is full speed ahead. After a long and, oftentimes, difficult 15-year journey, we will finally have a place to call our own.

I remember in 1989, as a Captain in the Battalion Chief Intern program, Fire Chief Frank Kahooohanohano and Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara called us together for a meeting. At that time, our Headquarters was located on the third floor of the old Sears building with the Honolulu Police Department (HPD). The building's owners had decided to redevelop the area, so we were forced to vacate and find a new home. The HPD had already begun planning their own Headquarters building (and it did not include us), which was to be built several blocks away. So, our quest and scramble for a new HFD Headquarters began.

Unfortunately, vacant and reasonably priced property in



town was a rare commodity and construction was booming. We looked at numerous sites in Honolulu, Waipahu, Pearl City, etc. Campbell Industrial Park was even considered for a joint Headquarters and Training Center. But, after much thought, it was decided that the Headquarters should remain in Honolulu, in close proximity to City Hall, where much of our meetings are held. Although the site was small, the old Kakaako Fire Station was determined to be a viable option. The City gave their approval on the site selection and plans were then made to relocate the Mechanic Shop, Storeroom,

and Radio Shop, located on the old Kakaako site.

We also had to resolve the problem of having to vacate the offices immediately and securing a new site in the interim. We settled on our present location, near the airport, and secured a five-year lease with options to leave earlier. Presently, the annual rent is \$350,000.

The rest is history! Fifteen years later, although we are still at this temporary location, through the efforts of six Fire Chiefs (Frank Kahooohanohano, Lionel Camara, Donald Chang, Richard Seto Mook, Anthony Lopez, and myself) to get the Headquarters building funded and built, we are finally able to see the fruits of our labor as we watch the building go up.

As mentioned earlier, the site was slightly smaller than we had wished, but we were extremely lucky in that the Chevron Gas Station was placed on the market several years ago and we were able to purchase it. The additional property enabled us to spread out and make better use of the site. The entire project entails the construction of the three-story headquarters building and a courtyard with a fire fighters' memorial, restoration of the historical fire station into an educational museum, and the remodeling of the present Kakaako Fire Station.

The contractor has stated that the Headquarters will be ready for occupancy by the end of the year. If you are in the area, check out the progress!



Aloha from Iraq

Continued from page 1

the civilian contractors do; they come here for private work, and the pay is high plus tax-free. Therefore, a bunch of guys come here for a year, just to collect the big bucks.

The other two HFD guys, Inouye and Rico, are stationed in Kuwait. Prior to deploying here, we knew that there would be a battalion (500 troops) that would have a mission in Kuwait. It is really a security guard mission around one of the bases, and kind of sucks. Mark and Aldann are in the battalion chosen for that detail. Lot of guys were happy to stay south, sort of in a safer environment, but most wanted to come up north. To most of us, it was like training all year for the big game, but then not being able to play. That is why we are glad to have been able to come up to Iraq, even though it is more dangerous. I don't have much contact with them, but I do get to see Alika quite a bit.

Not sure if you were able to watch the KHON morning news on Monday, March 7, 2005. I did a live interview with Kirk Matthews and they had my

wife and kids in the studio. It was nice to do that piece, and it ended with the base siren being sounded because of incoming missile attacks. So the conclusion was like getting an alarm at the station, just dropping everything and going. For the interview, I was positioned outside of the building, so we had to take cover indoors.

Our stay is going by pretty smooth and we're hoping that we have zero accidents or casualties. I wouldn't say people are homesick, because we are all together with other locals. There are also a lot of Filipino contract workers up here, mostly from the Philippines, who already connected with us. In typical Hawaiian tradition, we are really all taking care of each other.

Everyone misses the greenery, the beaches, trade winds, local food, families, the brothers and sisters of HFD, and beer (since this is a strict non-alcohol environment). We are all hoping for a quick return to the islands to resume our normal lifestyle again. Hope this message gets to you safely. I will keep in touch.

ALOHA,
DUKE KAHANU
IRAQ



RECIPES

This is the last of the four recipes selected to represent Hawaii fire fighters in a nationally distributed cookbook.

Vanilla/Coconut Ball Treats *Fire Fighter III Brian Derby*

1 Cup Condensed Milk
1 Block Butter
1 Large Symphony Candy Bar
1 Pkg. Sweetened Coconut Shreds
Vanilla Ice Cream

Brown coconut shreds under broiler until golden brown. Set aside and cool. Melt butter, then add milk and the chocolate bar a piece at a time and heat slowly until the consistency is creamy. Make ice cream into balls and roll in coconut shreds. Top each ball with chocolate sauce and serve immediately. Nuts of your choice can also be added to the top of each vanilla ball if desired.

Recipes are welcomed. Please send via email to haleahinews@honolulu.gov



THE HISTORY SECTION - Fire Captain Dennis Lewis, Retired

The museum is coming! The HFD Historical Section opened its office doors on August 10, 2004, in the basement of the Nuuanu Fire Station. Currently, we are trying to organize the Department's old documents, photographs, and memorabilia. We are using PastPerfect Museum, a software program that is a standard among museums throughout the country. We have started the time-consuming task of creating permanent museum records by inputting information about those articles. Each item must be numbered, described, and photographed. The process of preserving historical articles also includes a plan to protect these items from the environment and insects. In addition, the section will assist in organizing the restoration of fire equipment and in erecting fire service displays.

The HFD has a unique history among fire departments for several different reasons. The Department was established by the Hawaiian monarchy and included volunteer ethnic fire companies; our fire fighters were the first to fight fires under enemy attack; and our fire fighters were the first to receive the Purple Heart award. Through our museum, we will tell these stories and more and show that the HFD has been one of the nation's leaders in the fire service. However, we need your help. There are many historic items that are still out in the community, and we are asking you and the public to donate them to the museum to make it one of the world's best. If you know of any old items anywhere that you think the museum could use, call the History Section office at 527-6741.

We hope to fill the museum with items directly linked to the HFD, although we will consider displaying items from other fire departments in the State or elsewhere on a space available basis.

We are also looking for volunteers to restore fire equipment, artists, graphic artists, editors, historical interviewers, and researchers. We meet the second Saturday of each month at 0830 hours in the Nuuanu Fire Station basement. Please join the Department's effort to preserve our history.

GLOBAL HOPE INTERNATIONAL - FF1 Kenneth Han (L29/3)

On December 26, 2004, an earthquake centered in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Sumatra and its resulting tsunami that spread for 3,000 miles around the Indian Ocean basin, struck coastlines as far apart as Thailand and Somalia. Measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale along a 700-mile long fault, its aftermath left thousands of people dead or missing with nearly a million more displaced in 11 South- and Southeast Asian nations and Africa.

Within 15 minutes of the earthquake, a tsunami hit the northwest coast of Sumatra and over the next few hours, a series of tsunamis spread across the Indian Ocean causing widespread destruction in countries such as Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Maldives, and Indonesia. The estimated death toll is still not clear. Latest reports have put figures at 273,000 dead or presumed missing. As of March 5, ABC Online reported the death toll stands at approximately 288,000.

Rick Weiss of the Washington Post reported, "Along the shores of Sri Lanka, the tsunami . . . first appeared as a rapidly rising tide -- a phenomenon more akin to a quickly filling bathtub than a bona fide wave." One of the areas devastated was the city of Galle, which sits at the Southern tip of the country of Sri Lanka. It was in Galle that a team from Global Hope International set up a roving medical clinic manned by eight individuals of various backgrounds. Fire Fighter Kenneth Han (L29/3) was one of these individuals.

I met Ken at the McCully Fire Station for a brief interview. The following excerpts are from that interview.

HAN: How did you get involved in the mission to Sri Lanka?

Ken: The President of Global Hope International is a member of my church. My Pastor made an announcement one Sunday that they were putting a team together to go to Sri Lanka to help with the tsunami victims in whatever way we could. We really didn't know what we were going to do at the time, but they wanted to send a team in

to survey and try to help and report back so that a future team could be able to be more focused.

HAN: Were they specific in the type of help that was needed?

Ken: Initially, they had told us we had three priorities. First was debris removal of the devastation including bodies, then trauma help and psychiatric needs, and to set up a medical clinic. Once we got there, our guide stressed the importance of medical clinics because the hospitals in the area had been destroyed. People couldn't get medical help because they couldn't afford to catch the bus to other hospitals. So, they were without medical help. People were dying from simple things like infected cuts.

HAN: How long were you there?

Ken: We left January 9 and returned January 20; about ten days, but five days were travel time. Two and a half days to get there and two and a half back with a lot of layover time. We had a layover in Bangkok for 22 hours, and then one in Seoul, Korea. There was only one flight a day going to Sri Lanka. We arrived at night and I didn't see anything until the next day.

It didn't look like a tsunami because all the water had receded and there was no standing water; just a lot of devastation -- kind of looked like an earthquake or a bomb had gone off. Everything was crumbled and toppled over. A train was on its side and the tracks were all twisted. Fortunately for us, all the bodies had been removed from Galle but it looked like a war zone. A lot of the smells were still there. Ocean life had washed up and that attracted a lot of flies. The smells, devastation, and the heat, it was very hot averaging 90 to 100 degrees everyday.

HAN: What did you do there?

Ken: We set up medical clinics in different parts of the city. We set up triage areas, saw people, and determined if we could treat them for cuts and simple injuries. If it was more complicated, we sent them back to the nurse or doctor who could prescribe medication. Medication is inexpensive

in other countries. We could buy \$1,000 worth of medication for \$200. There are lots of medications available they just can't afford them. Money was donated to team members before we left. People here would say we want you to use this money on your trip to help the people.

I had just gone through and finished EMT-B training at the HFD Training Center. That [training] came in very handy while we were there. I worked in the triage area with the other paramedics. We were able to see a lot of people and were able to better diagnose their problems. We had six clinics and in eight days treated at least a thousand people. That's what we did from morning to night until we either ran out of supplies or there was no light. Then we had to send people away.

The people are incapacitated because they lost a lot of their homes. They'd lost either their business or their means of working like their transportation. Their houses are gone, their livelihood is gone, and they have nothing. They don't have any money to rebuild their houses or restart their businesses. They are pretty much without anything. There are thousands of people like that.

I met a young man who was a surfer for a living and surfing at the time of the tsunami. Somehow he was spared. But he lost his board, his home, and his transportation so he had nothing. We were told not to give money directly to people because we wanted to maximize the use of our money. So here is a guy that you build a relationship with but you're not able to help him. That was probably the hardest thing throughout the trip -- seeing the need but not being able to do anything about it.

But the good side of it is when you help a mother and her baby and they are so thankful -- although they can't speak English you can tell by the look on their faces that they truly appreciate you. After you help them, they stand on the side and when you make eye contact they smile or they wave. It's because nobody is there to help them. There are other agencies but they do things differently. We just went in and

HAN—continued from page 4

whoever needed help we just helped them. There was lots of gratitude from these people. They brought us coconuts; there were a lot of coconuts, and they would open them up and give us the juice or try to give us something because that's all they had. They didn't have anything. They were just trying to show us their appreciation.

Another hard part was that there were some women who had lost their homes or their husbands and all they had were their babies. But they couldn't afford to support them, so they were trying to give them to us to take back to America – so they could have a chance of surviving. That was pretty tough to handle. I can't imagine what goes through your mind to be able to give up your baby. But you have to be desperate and care enough for your baby. I guess that's what I would do. Some mothers told us that their children

don't play anymore. A lot of the children are still traumatized and need psychological help.

HAN: Is there anything else you would like to add before we conclude this interview?

Ken: There is team that is scheduled for another tour in April. This team will focus on rebuilding as well as providing medical assistance so that the people will be able to re-sustain their businesses and once again be able to support themselves. They need basic things like slippers, shoes, clothes, and eyeglasses. They're walking around barefoot with cuts on their feet. We bandage their cuts but they walk away barefooted and the bandages come off. There are people living on top of the rubble that was left behind by the devastation. We need to get them money so they can buy supplies. My suggestion is to give money to the team members. This will ensure that 100% of your money will go to the people who need

it the most.

HAN: There has been a lot of aid being sent to the countries that have been affected by this disaster; however, there are still some areas that are without help or who cannot get to the help that is available. About \$157.5 million US has been approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as emergency assistance for Sri Lanka. It is through volunteers like Fire Fighter 1 Kenneth Han, his team members, and organizations such as Global Hope International that people are reached and provided with much needed assistance. We commend Fire Fighter Han and all volunteers for their unselfish efforts to provide aid to the victims of one of the most devastating disasters in our history.

On Tuesday, March 29, 2005 at 8 pm, NOVA will present "Wave That Shook the World" on PBS TV followed by a PBS special "Krakatoa", at 9 p.m., or visit their website at www.pbs.org/

MAKING A "BIG" DIFFERENCE - Fire Captain Tony Sung - Community Relations Office

I was asked to reflect on my 20 years with the Honolulu Fire Department. I thought of the years that flew by, and a few memories came to mind. I've been stationed from Waianae to Waiupe to Sunset Beach. I've been a Fire Fighter Recruit to a Captain. I've responded to fires, auto accidents, medical calls, and ocean rescues. What a great career. We get paid to help people and assist in whatever no one else can do. What a flash in the pan.

What is more meaningful to me are my experiences as a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu (BBBS). BBBS offers a preventive service for youth by creating a caring and supportive relationship between an adult (Big) and a child (Little).

I began volunteering in 1985 and have mentored seven Littles. Did I have a positive effect on their lives,

and do I hope that they become fine adults? Of course I do, because according to a national study, Littles who meet regularly with their Bigs are:

52% less likely to skip school
46% less likely to start using drug
37% less likely to skip a class
33% less likely to hit someone
27% less likely to start drinking

Mentoring is not difficult. Bigs and Littles plan activities that



"Big" volunteer Tony Sung with his "Littles," Shane and Jordan, in Laie conducting a beach clean-up.

they'll both enjoy at times that are mutually convenient. Bigs and Littles can play games, do homework, or just hang out. It's all about spending time with a kid; teaching them simple things that we take for granted, such as washing a car or trimming grass; and being a good role model.

I currently have two Littles (Jordan, a senior, and Shane, a 6th grader) because there is a great shortage of male volunteers. We fire fighters (1,100+ strong) owe it to the Ohana to get involved and make a difference in the community. There's no reason why we don't have more volunteers. Give some time to a Little and you will benefit tenfold.

If you are interested in making a Big difference, please call BBBS at 521-3811 or visit their website at www.bigshonolulu.org.

Dr. Lawrence Tseu - Fire Commission *by Battalion Chief Edmund Suzuki*

The weather was terrible on the day I met Dr. Lawrence Tseu. However, I felt calm when I walked into his dental office and met him. As I think back, I now see that this calmness was a reflection of the man himself. He is a soft-spoken, unassuming man filled with energy, wisdom, and community spirit.



As he spoke, I sensed an extreme appreciation for his parent's sacrifices and his upbringing. Success was a long road in his early life as a 3rd generation immigrant from China. He was "bon poor" (had nothing) as he grew up on the "makai side of the railroad tracks," below Nimitz Highway, in the area where the present day Alicia's Market and Slim's Tools are. In the old days, the housing in this area was provided for cannery workers and known as a rough district.

When he was seven years old, he went to the Strong Carter Dental Clinic at Palama Settlement for 10 cents a visit. He was so grateful for their dental care that he knew he wanted to become a dentist and help others with their dental problems. His parent's sacrifice and support for his good education moved the family closer to St. Louis School in Kaimuki where he attended classes from the 5th to 12th grade. He knew at a young age that success could be found through hard work, patience, and perseverance.

After high school, he served five years in the Air Force and went on to the Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah on the G.I. bill. He selected this school because 87% of the graduates went on to professional schooling such as dentistry. From there, he was accepted at the Northwestern University Dental

School where there were typically 6,370 applicants for only 75 openings. He is presently in private practice and has an honorary degree in sports medicine from the Olympian International Sports Medicine College in Munich, Germany. He has worked closely with Olympian weightlifter Tommy Kono in judging local weightlifting contests and with Richard You of the USA International Olympic Committee weightlifting team.

Whether in the fire fighting profession or dentistry, Dr. Tseu believes in keeping current with new procedures and equipment. He is well accomplished in his private practice and has received a fellowship from the Academy of General Dentistry. This is presented by the Nomination Board through a review of the person's accomplishments and continued education to keep abreast in the field of dentistry. In 2003-2004, he was inducted into the America's Top Dentists of which only 500 dentists are picked per year from the 170,000 dentists in the United States. In 2000, he was chosen to receive the Northwestern University's Top 10 Alumni Merit Award out of 166,000 living alumnus. In 1989, he was selected as the Alumnus of the Year from the Northwestern University Dental School.

He is very proud of his work on the Fire Commission and has the utmost respect for fire fighters. He considers HFD fire fighters as professionals in every way because of the high level of training and knowledge it takes to become one. His respect for fire fighters made it an easy decision when Mayor Jeremy Harris asked him to be a Fire Commissioner. From the initial concept, the fire commissioners intended to work hard in keeping the politics out of the HFD and help the Fire Chief accomplish his goals. He feels they have performed very well in this regard by working cohesively as a group to make decisions regarding the HFD. The present day Fire Commission is striving to be more participative in the day-to-day decision-making to alleviate some of the stress of the Fire Chief while becoming more connected to the Department.

He is proud of the accomplishments the HFD has achieved over the last several years, which included acquiring national recognition by becoming an accredited agency with IFSAC and implementing the latest high tech equipment to name a few. He strongly believes the HFD is at the forefront of the fire fighting profession through Chief Leonardi's leadership, and the hard work of the men and women of the HFD. Chief Leonardi's vision and easy-going personality makes working with him a pleasure.

So whether he be performing his duties as the President of the Jackie Chan Charitable Foundation USA, judging local beauty pageants and weightlifting contests, or working on his other community-oriented projects, you can rest assured that Dr. Lawrence Tseu will be fulfilling his role as a outstanding community leader, recognized leader in dentistry, and supporter of the Honolulu Fire Department. He is a man who believes that learning for knowledge and retaining that information helps a person fulfill their "champagne wishes and caviar dreams."



LAST ALARM



FIRE CAPTAIN RICHARD S. ISHIDA

January 18, 2005

Appointed August 16, 1952

38 years

Last Assignment - Training and Research Bureau



FIRE CAPTAIN FREDERICK C. LAU JR.

February 11, 2005

Appointed November 1, 1960

29 years

Last Assignment - Engine 27/3



RETIREEES' REALM

All retired members are welcome to join fellow retirees as members of the Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association.

Legislative Update: The Twenty-Third legislative session has begun. As of the end of February, there are 1,786 proposed bills with the House of Representatives and 1,904 proposed bills with the Senate. This legislative session's proposed bills relates to: 1) Prescription Drugs, 2) Long-Term Care, 3) Public Employee Health Benefits or the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust, and 4) the Employee Retirement System.

Retirees' Meeting: The next HFD Retirees Association quarterly meetings are scheduled for June 17 and September 19, 2005. The date for the last meeting of 2005 is tentatively scheduled for the December 9. All members and new retirees and their spouses are welcome to attend the meetings, which are held at the HFD Training Center. Annual dues are \$5.

HFD Retirees Association: The association welcomes any correspondence from HFD retirees. You may update your current residence, pass on any information you wish to share with your fellow retirees, or provide input for our column in the HFD Newsletter, Hale Ahi News. Contact retired Fire Chief Donald Chang at (808) 487-8862.

Employer-Union Trust Fund: There are tentative legislative proposed bills that cover option plans for the retirees' spouse and individual/two-family retired employee plans. For more information, call Oahu: 586-7390 or Toll Free: 1-800-295-0089, email eutf@hawaii.gov, or visit the website at www.eutf.hawaii.gov.

Medicare Plan "B": Medicare (Part B) premium rate will be \$78.20 per month. For more info, check the website at www.medicare.gov/default.asp.

Retirees' Info: New retiree shirts have been made for 2005. Contact retired Fire Chief Donald Chang (808) 487-8862.

Additional Info: The lawsuit brought on by the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers against the State Employees' Retirement System (ERS) is on going. The lawsuit relates to overtime pay issues and the ERS using funds from the system for State projects.

RETIREEES' APPRECIATION DAY - Battalion Chief Nathan Ramos

The 3rd Retirees' Appreciation Day was held on February 25, 2005, at the Charles H. Thurston Training Center. After the welcoming remarks by Battalion Chief Edward Simeona, Fire Chief Attilio Leonardi updated retirees and their guests on the current and future operations of the Depart-

ment. Everyone then enjoyed a series of fire fighting, rescue, and medical evolutions performed by the 88th Fire Fighter Recruit Class. E12, T12, Q31, T28, and E30 participated in the static

displays. The gathering ended with a delicious luncheon hosted by Station 8 while the musical sounds of FireHouse filled the air. Mahalo to all who helped make this such an enjoyable event!



Recruits in action at Auto Fire Prop



Retirees observing events

Keith Daniel - On His Way To The Top

by Fire Fighter 3 Brett Aweau

Manpower was tight on a day in April 2004, and a race was to be held at Honolulu's tallest manmade structure, the First Hawaiian Bank building in downtown Honolulu. Battalion Chief William Kaai granted clearance for emergency vacation leave just an hour before the race was to begin. Keith Daniel was relieved. As Captain Turgeon hung up the landline, an alarm came in and within a minute Engine 3 and the rest of its personnel were gone. As Keith secured the station, it dawned on him that his roommate had dropped him off that morning; he had no transportation to the race. Without a moment to lose, Keith suited up with a good pair of shoes and a great attitude, then made a run for it from the Makiki Fire Station to the race downtown. Keith arrived with time to spare. So what did he do in his spare time? The same thing anyone else would do with 40 minutes till race time, a 30-story warm-up! Soon afterwards the race began. Thirty stories and 654 steps later, Keith came out on top, a winner.

Keith has always tried to stay ahead of the curve by entering various competitions. He has done well in triathlons like the Tinian and mountain bike events. He also trains on a stair stepper, but prefers running up the side of Koko Crater with his training partner Fire Fighter I Jason Habu. "I used it because the length was comparable to the Empire State Building, as far as the total time and amount of steps," says Keith who ran the 28th Annual Empire State Building Race (ESBR) on February 1, 2005. This was his first time in race, so he was automatically placed in the nov-



FF Keith Daniels in New York

ice division. There are only two divisions (approx. 70 people in each) and both use a "New York crosswalk" style of starting the race: when the light turns green, you go! "There was gridlock for both race divisions initially," he said. "I figure those of us toward the back were delayed about one minute and then it was one step at a time till the group thinned out." At the top, 86 stories and 1,576 steps later, Keith came in 25th out of 149 entrants. "I was hoping the spoils would go to the tortoise and for a while it appeared they were. I passed about 40 individuals in my division. I had no illusions of winning, but I wanted to do my best in representing the State of Hawaii."

As of this writing, Keith was in the process of thanking all of his sponsors, which included the First Hawaiian Bank who provided his roundtrip airfare to New York, the HFFA for hotel accommodations, Friends of the Firehouse for all his meals. Honolulu Triathlons John Korff, lead organizer/motivator, also offered entry into the ESBR due to Keith's win at the local competition. Chiefs Leonardi and Clark's efforts were also greatly appreciated. And finally, all the "other people" who were directly or

indirectly involved with this great effort. He is very thankful for everyone's involvement.

On the same token, Keith's efforts did not go unnoticed. He was asked to attend the February Staff Meeting in which he was presented with a Department Letter of Commendation. He was able to share a little of his New York experience with the Chief Officers and it was well received. It is interesting to note that this is his second commendation from HFD in two years. In December 2002, Keith Daniel, a civilian and Waialua resident at the time, performed a rescue at Shark's Cove during high surf. He saved a 9-year-old Honolulu girl who was swept off the rocks. Three months later, HFD accepted this energetic young man as a recruit.

Keith Daniel is a humble and generous man. As a fellow fire fighter, I am confident in his abilities. As a friend, I feel grateful to know him. He worked tirelessly throughout the competition and still found it necessary to find a way to give back. He came up with an idea of raising money for charity. At a dollar per step, he felt it would be an obtainable goal for a worthy cause. "It's a privilege to go and represent the Honolulu Fire Department and the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii. I feel really fortunate to have this opportunity to give something back to my community." He surpassed his goal, raising over \$2,100 with donations coming from friends, coworkers, and customers (Keith is a barista at Starbucks Pupukea). With great career momentum, Fire Fighter Keith Daniel is off to a good start, well on his way up to the top....

HFD FAMILY FUN DAY

Fire Captain Scott Mosher

On Sunday, October 17, 2004, fire fighters, family, and friends attended the 5th Annual Family Fun Day at the Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park. The park opened early for the 1,450 plus ticket holders. Whether you were a retiree, an "old" timer, a "short" timer, or a future fire fighter, kupuna to keiki were all there having fun in the sun.

Why do fire fighters and water go so well together? It's hydraulics for the new millennium. One more lap on the lazy river, another time down one of the rides, catching waves or hanging in the keiki pool. Sun burned, raw feet, and laughing all the way. It was a great event to see old friends and catch up on life and times, and provided a great opportunity to spend time with and get to know new members and their families.

Once again, the event was grand, and the generosity of the sponsors is deeply appreciated: Friends of the Firehouse, Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Honolulu Fire Department Athletic Association, Honolulu Fire Department Firemens Fund, and the Honolulu Fire Department Federal Credit Union. A special mahalo to Sheryl Nakama and Alison You for coordinating the event. Hope to see everyone there next year.

HONORING OUR OWN

by Fire Captain William Melemai

On March 5, 2005, nearly three hundred people gathered at Washington Place for a banquet to honor our 2004 HFD retirees. Mr. Glenn Shigeta and Ms. Briana Solidum, special assistants to the Governor, were exceptionally gracious and congenial hosts, who arranged for volunteer docents to provide tours and historic details of the mansion.

Our own FireHouse band provided live entertainment with members Captain Bill Beimes on sax, Captain Vernon Enriques on bass, and Captain Lance Orillo on guitar performing a variety of popular music. FF3 Rick Karasaki, assisted by FF3 Kamakani Souza, skillfully prepared a delicious dinner buffet of Hawaiian food, and FF3 Guy Hosaka generously donated an ample amount of freshly made poke.

Captain Glenn Solem served expertly as emcee. He delivered after dinner messages from Governor Linda Lingle and Mayor Mufi Hanneman then called on his lovely daughters Mahealani and U'ilani to perform graceful hula to his vocal renditions of "Beautiful Kauai" and "Hanalei Moon."

Chief Attilio K. Leonardi conveyed his best wishes to the retirees and thanked them for their years of dedicated service to the community and our Department. He also acknowledged the collective contributions of everyone that helped to make the evening a rousing success. FF3 Bill Thornock and FF2 Chris Powell were recognized for their efforts in preparing, painting, and finishing the souvenir helmets given to each retiree. Chief Leonardi and

Deputy Fire Chief John Clark congratulated each retiree with a commemorative certificate.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the retiree video produced and edited by FF3 David Morgan and Captain Bill Melemai. The video opened with graphically depicted sights and sounds from alarms we responded to in 2004. This was followed with a retrospective look at each retiree starting with a picture from his initial entry into the Department and ending with a color portrait taken for the 2001 HFD yearbook. Cheers and applause erupted throughout the showing of the video, as friends and families marveled at the transformation of the honorees.

So many generous and hard working indi-

viduals came together to make this evening truly the best ever. Thanks goes out to the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association and Friends of the Firehouse for their generous financial support, and to the Fire Prevention Bureau personnel for organizing the event.

When the evening drew to a close, positive comments could be heard throughout the stately residence. Folks described the evening as "outstanding," "excellent," and "fantastic." Some even described a feeling of serenity and peace knowing the Queen was looking kindly upon our proceedings. Surely, for those that attended this first ever celebration at Washington Place held exclusively for Honolulu Fire Department retirees, the evening would be one to remember.

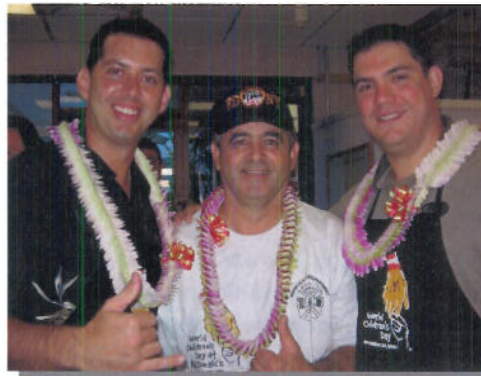


ANNUAL WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Each November, McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii joins McDonald's restaurants in more than 100 countries for their annual World Children's Day, a global fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC). RMHC of Hawaii, a nonprofit organization, is best known for providing a "home away from home" for neighbor island families seeking medical treatment in Honolulu for their critically ill children. Hundreds of island children and their families depend on the support of RMHC of Hawaii to provide comfort and care during difficult times.

The HFD participated in this year's World Children's Day at various McDonald's Restaurants to help generate awareness and funds for the local RMHC chapter. Kudos to Ken Tenn, Kamakani Souza, James Todd, Michael Pangilinan, Billy Beimes, Ken Bogowitz, Warren Iseke, Ernie Ahlo, Carl Lorenzo, Jason Takara, Ricky Masumoto, Ted Cheong, Tho-

mas Akana, Lloyd Rogers, Chuck Perry, Dean Hakikawa, Rick Karasaki, Ken Silva, Sheldon Yasso, and Jon Omori who, along with Chief Leonardi, helped raise more than \$1,200 in newspaper sales! Mahalo for donating your time!



Chief Leonardi poses with Kanoa Leahey and John Veneri of KHON-2 at the Keeaumoku Street McDonald's Restaurant.

FIRE OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief Alvin Tomita

I would like to recognize Assistant Chief Charles Wassman for his outstanding achievements during his tenure as the Assistant Chief of Fire Operations.

Since 1998, I have been the Assistant Chief of Administrative Services and with this new assignment, I am excited about and looking forward to working with all of you in continuing to do our job safely, effectively, efficiently, and with compassion.

To accomplish this mission, we all need to be motivated, highly trained, and well equipped, with safety as our highest consideration. The Department's Vision Statement reads in part, "We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel." Our motto, "Pride, Service, Dedication," emulates professionalism.

As individuals, we need to keep ourselves physically fit, mentally prepared, and properly trained. As a team, we need to train and be coordinated as a unit, emphasize safe practices, and be aware and alert of potential problems. We need to function within our established policy and procedures and the Standard Operating Guidelines and be proficient in understanding the components and functions that make up these guidelines.

I will make the time and effort to attend your officer's meetings, confer with the battalion chiefs of Fire Operations on a one-to-one basis, and visit various stations as the opportunity occurs. During my visits, I will be available to listen to concerns and potential resolutions as well as the positive comments.

"WHEN I GET PROMOTED, I WANT TO GO TO TRAINING"

By Battalion Chief Nathan Ramos

Our brothers and sisters aspiring to be promoted seldom speak these words. The truth is, working a 40-hour workweek is undesirable for fire fighters who grow accustomed to working a 56-hour shift schedule. How can working five days a week (20 days a month) compete with working only ten days a month? How can having a weekend off compete with having four days off? There is no competition; a four-day break wins!

So who wants to be at Training? Believe it or not, there are some of us who are willing to make the sacrifice for the benefit of the Department. Most of us are good soldiers and will take the assignment handed to us.

Some of us find benefits in the schedule. At Training, you are able to be with your family and friends for holidays and special occasions that you may have otherwise missed while being in the field. At Training, you are able to attend many of those special events with your children. How many times have you had to miss a family function or your child's sporting event? At Training, you can be there when it counts!

Training is a vital component of any successful organization. We need to have people at Training. We want people who want to be here, even if only for a limited term. We need people dedicated to the cause of improving our Department to improve our service to the community. We are the community. Our families and friends are the community. Our community deserves the best.

Your life is what you make of it. If you are assigned to Training, your stay here will be as enjoyable and fulfilling as you make it. Come with an open mind and an eagerness to make a difference. You will not be here forever unless you choose to be. Make your time here worth-

while.

In closing, I would like to thank those who have passed through Training's Blue Pearly Gates, put in their time, and served the Department and our community. Special thanks go to our latest group of servants who left us in mid-March. They have served the Department well with pride, service, and dedication. They have made a difference for all of us.

Mahalo to Fire Captains Jay Kemmler, Elliot Mattos, Matthew Zane, and Fire Fighter IIIs Keith Kanno and Corey L. Silva. We wish them well in Operations. We know they will make a difference out there.



TRAINING BUREAU STAFF



RETIREMENTS



CLINTON K. WONG - Battalion Chief

January 4, 1971 - December 30, 2004
34 years

KEVIN K. AKIONA - Fire Captain

November 8, 1976 - December 30, 2004
28 years, 2 months

SIMEON J. ALO - Fire Captain

February 24, 1975 - December 30, 2004
29 years, 10 months

DOUGLAS J. CHING - Fire Captain

January 16, 1976 - December 30, 2004
28 years, 11 months

MICHAEL Y. D. CHUNG - Fire Captain

July 1, 1980 - December 30, 2004
24 years, 6 months

PATRICK H. FUKUDA - Fire Captain

November 18, 1974 - December 30, 2004
30 years, 11 months

MERRIL R. GOODELL - Fire Captain

December 3, 1979 - December 30, 2004
22 years

DAVID K. HAMAISHI - Fire Captain

November 8, 1976 - December 30, 2004
28 years, 2 months

RANDALL T. HIGA - Fire Captain

October 1, 1972 - December 30, 2004
29 years, 10 months

CALVIN M. KEALOHA - Fire Captain

January 3, 1972 - December 30, 2004
33 years

CHARLES R. KIMAK - Fire Captain

November 18, 1974 - December 30, 2004
30 years, 2 months

ANTHONY G. MARKS - Fire Captain

April 16, 1973 - December 30, 2004
31 years, 9 months

DAVID MORTENSEN - Fire Captain

January 24, 1977 - December 30, 2004
30 years, 8 months

EDWARD ODA - Fire Captain

February 24, 1975 - December 30, 2004
29 years, 10 months

HENRY W. PELEKAI - Fire Captain

April 1, 1969 - December 30, 2004
35 years, 9 months

GLENN K. SOLEM - Fire Captain

August 20, 1973 - December 30, 2004
31 years, 4 months

RODNEY YAMABE - Fire Captain

October 16, 1971 - December 30, 2004
33 years, 2 months

DENNIS H. YAMADA - Fire Captain

January 16, 1974 - December 30, 2004
31 years

WAYNE H. YASUTOMI - Fire Captain

January 16, 1976 - December 30, 2004
29 years

THOMAS YEN - Fire Captain

February 24, 1975 - December 30, 2004
29 years, 10 months

TEDMUND CHEONG - Fire Fighter III

February 10, 1975 - December 30, 2004
30 years 1 month

SAMUEL DAVID III - Fire Fighter III

August 1, 1977 - December 30, 2004
27 years, 4 months

WAYNE K. KANEAIKALA - Fire Fighter III

February 24, 1975 - December 30, 2004
29 years, 10 months

WILLIAM H. MCCLELLAN - Fire Fighter III

December 3, 1979 - December 30, 2004
25 years, 1 month

ROBERT K. KAIKAKA - Fire Fighter II

February 10, 1975 - December 30, 2004
27 years, 9 months

REUBEN K. KANOHO - Fire Fighter II

January 23, 1978 - December 30, 2004
29 years, 10 months

ALBERT K. MCGURN - Fire Fighter II

November 18, 1974 - December 30, 2004
30 years, 1 month

KEITH L. MEYER - Fire Fighter II

November 26, 1972 - December 30, 2004
32 years, 1 month

BARRINGTON G. M. BLOMFIELD - Fire Fighter I

March 16, 1972 - December 30, 2004
32 years, 10 months

MAHALO AND ALOHA

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY - MARCH

30 Years

Akana, Alexander
Akana, Ernest
Almeida, Dexter
Cano, Terry
Coito, Juvenal
Doane, Kurt
Gora, Guy
Harbottle, David
Ku, George
Lee, Robert
Leong, John
Lorenzo, Carl
Mensching, James
Oda, Walter
Paloma, Bernard
Phillips, Michael
Ralston, William
Rogers, Lloyd
Scharff, Eric
Wassman, Charles
Yamada, David



15 Years

Alameda, Nathan
Blichfeldt, Peer
Boddy, Paul
Bumanglag, Terio
Chang, Bradley
Dang, Russell
Galera, Ponciano
Hashimoto, Ronald
Hosaka, Guy
Kahaulelio, Damien
Kahoohanohano, Dwight
Keaunui, Alexander
Kuwae, Mark
McKee, Thomas
Mokulehua, John
Nuuanu, Clint
Oshio, Mel
Pregil, John
Thomson, Michael
Yamamoto, Cary
Young, Ryan



10 Years

Kaneakua, Russell
Florenco, Fran
Leong-Lau, Janine



5 Years

Matsukawa, Dean

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following personnel who were promoted during the 3rd quarter:

BATTALION CHIEF

Jeffrey K. Farris

FIRE CAPTAINS

Eric A. Abella
Rickey K. Amano
Brett A. Aweau
John K. Bredin
Eric J. Capllonch
Debby M. A. Eleneki
Robert K. Faurot
Derek K. Foglesong
Elton T. Furutani
Thomas M. Hearty
Stuart D. Hee
Damien J. L. Kahaulelio
Jeremy J. Kam
Edward P. Kealoha III
Guy K. Masutani
Rex A. Nohara
Norbert K. Pokini
Craig S. Roberts
Darryl S. Takizawa
Chris T. Toda
James R. Todd
Gary K. Viela
Gordon A. K. Villa

FIRE FIGHTER IIIs

Nelson H. Makua
Jon T. Omori
Clifford M. Rigsbee

FIRE FIGHTER IIs

Jason M. Racoma
John H. K. Akana
Jacques J. L. Kauhane
Alvin K. Ku
Thomas M. Reppuhn
Frank F. Sanchez III
Blake A. K. Takahashi
Craig J. Uchimura

CIVILIAN CORNER

Dean DeMello

Fire Equipment Supervisor

Waipahu Maintenance Facility



Dean DeMello is the Honolulu Fire Department's (HFD) Fire Equipment Supervisor and has been with us since December of 1990. Located at the Waipahu Maintenance Facility, Dean is responsible for managing 12 employees and maintaining over 200 first line and relief apparatuses, 90 auxiliary vehicles, and 30,000 small equipment items. Dean is also responsible for the training of all shop mechanics. Before coming to the HFD, Dean worked for Hawaiian Telephone in fleet maintenance. What keeps him busy? Dean is married with three children - two sons, Kekai (15) and Mikey (15-Hanai); and a daughter, Kapi'i (9). He has coached youth sports for the past 15 years and enjoys cooking ox tail stew for the family. Deans feels that work is exciting and challenging and the HFD is the best public service organization to work for. Any challenges? "Not having the resources needed to provide the level of service the end user needs." Mahalo to Dean DeMello for keeping our apparatuses, vehicles, and equipment running smoothly.

